

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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TITLE: eBranch and Databases Update

ABSTRACT:

The eBranch site, which features the online resources, has proven to be a service enhancement for customers and staff. Databases continue to provide vetted, accurate information for all ages of users.

DISCUSSION:

The eBranch site, which consolidates all online resources, has been live on the Newport Beach Public Library website since December 2014. Prior to implementing the eBranch enhancement, customers and staff searched under various tabs to locate what they needed, such as databases and ebooks. For instance, the databases were listed under the “Services” tab while ebooks were listed under the “Catalog” tab. Reorganizing the resources into one easily identifiable tab on the website has improved communication and efficiency with customers, provided clarity and ease in locating online resources, and delivered a concise and useful means for finding these features.

Databases remain a robust and essential resource for the community and staff in that the myriad topics appeal to all audiences. Customers may enjoy a range of pursuits and interests, from leisure activities through professional development. Tumblebooks, a database featuring animated storybooks, is one of the best-performing based on cost per use. The newest database, Lynda.com, provides tutorials and lesson plans to learn software applications. The tutorials range from basic introductions to multi-lesson courses offering continuing education credits. The Lynda.com remote-access subscription is generously funded by the NBPL Foundation.

In 2015, staff completed a cost per use analysis for all databases over a three-year period to determine how best to spend funds to support the community. Overall, the financial and educational databases performed well, as did the business resources. The most underperforming resource, Tutor.com, was discontinued in December 2015 after three years. The savings from this decision will be used to continue the Lynda.com subscription, and add more content from other providers.

Online resources continue to distinguish the Newport Beach Public Library as a destination for reputable, reliable services. Whether customers seek databases or eBooks and eMagazines, the eBranch site provides logical and consistent access to these features.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).